

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 198403 TOSEC 090021
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 EUR-12 /028 R

DRAFTED BY S/S-O:HCDAVIS

APPROVED BY S/S-O:SVALERGA

-----118102 070239Z /61

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE 0519

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WHITE HOUSE FOR SITUATION ROOM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PPDC, PSDC

SUBJECT:SECRETARY'S STATEMENT ON DEATH OF POPE PAUL

REF: VALERGA-DAVIS TELECON

1. FOLLOWING IS DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTED GUIDANCE FOR
SECRETARY'S STATEMENT ON DEATH OF POPE PAUL VI. THIS
GUIDANCE DRAFTED BY M. LISSFELT, EUR/WE, CLEARED BY
TARNOFF AND SUBMITTED TO OPERATIONS CENTER BY RESTON.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

"IT WAS WITH DEEP SORROW THAT I LEARNED OF THE DEATH OF
POPE PAUL THE SIXTH. AS AN OUTSTANDING MORAL AND SPIRITUAL
LEADER WHOSE INSPIRATION EXTENDED TO ALL CORNERS OF THE
EARTH, HE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED. I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN
GREATLY IMPRESSED BY THE DEPTH OF HIS DEVOTION TO THE
CAUSE OF WORLD PEACE. THE WORLD HAS LOST A STEADFAST ALLY
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IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE ON EARTH. WE SHALL MISS POPE
PAUL THE SIXTH." END TEXT.

3. USDEL MAY FIND USEFUL FOLLOWING TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S
STATEMENT ISSUED LATE SUNDAY EVENING.

BEGIN TEXT:

"I WAS DEEPLY SADDENED TO LEARN OF THE DEATH OF POPE PAUL VI, A MAN WHOSE LIFE AND WORKS HAVE SERVED ME PERSONALLY AS A SOURCE OF GREAT MORAL INSPIRATION. AS A MAN OF PEACE AND PROFOUND SPIRITUALITY HE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED, NOT ONLY BY HIS ROMAN CATHOLICS BUT BY ALL PEOPLE, WHATEVER THEIR RELIGIOUS CONVICTIONS.

OF POPE PAUL'S MANY CONTRIBUTIONS, TWO STAND OUT FOR ME AT THIS SAD MOMENT: FIRST, HIS UNTIRING EFFORTS IN THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT. NOT ONLY WAS HE INSPIRED IN THE CAUSE OF HUMANITY TO PURSUE GREATER UNITY OF PURPOSE WITHIN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, BUT ALSO AMONG ALL OTHER FAITHS. SECOND, POPE PAUL'S WORLD TRAVELS, AT NO SMALL EXPENSE TO HIS OWN PHYSICAL WELL BEING, EXEMPLIFIED HIS ROLE OF PILGRIM, CARRYING THE MESSAGE OF PEACE AND LOVE TO THE FAR CORNERS OF THE WORLD, INCLUDING AN INSPIRING VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES.

DURING HIS FIFTEEN YEARS AS PONTIFF, PAUL VI'S VOICE SERVED AS A CLEAR MORAL BEACON TO A TROUBLED WORLD. WITH HIS PASSING, WE HAVE ALL BEEN DEPRIVED OF A STRONG VOICE FOR REASON, FOR MODERATION, AND FOR PEACE." END TEXT

4. RESTON WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING TEXT OF SECRETARY'S STATEMENT AS DELIVERED FOR DEPARTMENT'S MONDAY NOON PRESS BRIEFING.
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CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 07 aug 1978
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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